



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 11132014 13:34

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory - Ebola Testing at the CDPHE State Public Health Laboratory

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies/EDs/ID Physicians/IPs/Clinical Labs

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Health Agencies: For your information

HEALTH ADVISORY

Ebola Testing at the CDPHE State Public Health Laboratory

November 13, 2014

KEY POINTS:

- **CDPHE laboratory now has the capability to perform diagnostic testing for Ebola virus.** The CDPHE laboratory does NOT perform blood chemistries, liver enzyme testing, or bacterial cultures for patients under investigation for Ebola infection.
- **Any facility that has a patient suspected of having Ebola must contact CDPHE (303-692-2700 or after hours: 303-370-9395).** Testing must be approved by CDPHE prior to submitting samples. CDPHE will contact CDC and obtain approval prior to accepting specimens. **The CDPHE laboratory will not accept samples without prior approval.**
- Once testing has been authorized, **CDPHE will assist with sample transport.**
- Test results can be anticipated within 5-6 hours of sample receipt by the CDPHE laboratory. A negative result will be considered final; samples testing positive will be forwarded to the CDC for confirmatory testing.
- For facilities considering the use of the Biofire Ebola Assay: CDPHE strongly recommends that your facility consult with CDPHE prior to performing the Biofire Ebola virus assay.

RECOMMENDATIONS / GUIDANCE:

Testing for Ebola

- CDPHE laboratory now has the capability to perform testing for Ebola virus using the Department of Defense assay under Emergency Use Authorization.
- **Any facility that has a patient suspected of having Ebola must contact CDPHE (303-692-2700 or after hours: 303-370-9395).** Testing must be approved by CDPHE prior to submitting samples. CDPHE will contact CDC and obtain approval prior to accepting specimens. **The CDPHE laboratory will not accept samples without prior approval.**



Sample Collection and Transport

- CDC guidance should be followed. The document “Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing, and Submission for Persons Under Investigation for Ebola Virus Disease in the United States” can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>.
- Per CDC guidance, a minimum volume of 4mL whole blood in a plastic collection tube is needed to test for Ebola virus. **Only 1 tube of whole blood is necessary for testing.** Do not submit specimens in glass containers or in heparinized tubes. Whole blood preserved with EDTA is preferred but whole blood preserved with sodium polyanethol sulfonate (SPS), citrate, or clot activator is acceptable. It is not necessary to separate and remove serum or plasma from the primary collection container. Specimens should be immediately stored or transported at 2-8°C or frozen on cold-packs.
- Specimens should be packaged as per CDC guidance, “Packaging and Shipping Clinical Specimens Diagram,” found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/packaging-diagram.html>.
- CDPHE has identified a courier that will transport specimens within Colorado 24/7. When testing has been authorized, CDPHE will arrange the courier pick-up from the facility. CDPHE has also identified a courier that will ship specimens to CDC as necessary.
- Test results can be anticipated within 5-6 hours of sample receipt by the CDPHE laboratory. A negative result will be considered final; samples testing positive will be forwarded to the CDC by CDPHE for confirmatory testing.

For Facilities Considering the Use of the Biofire Ebola Assay:

- FDA has recently given Emergency Use Authorization for the commercially available Biofire Ebola assay.
- To confirm a diagnosis of Ebola, testing must be performed by the CDPHE laboratory and at CDC.
- CDPHE strongly recommends that your facility consult with CDPHE prior to performing the Biofire Ebola virus assay. This assay has limitations to consider:
 - The Biofire package insert indicates that the test results cannot be used for clinical management
 - Biofire assay is significantly less sensitive than the Department of Defense assay, leading to the potential for false negative results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To report a suspected case of Ebola, or for questions about Ebola, please call CDPHE disease control at 303-692-2700 or after hours at 303-370-9395.

For laboratory-specific questions about Ebola, please contact the CDPHE laboratory at 303-692-3494 or hugh.maguire@state.co.us.

For additional information on Ebola, please visit the following websites:

- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- CDPHE: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ebola>

